

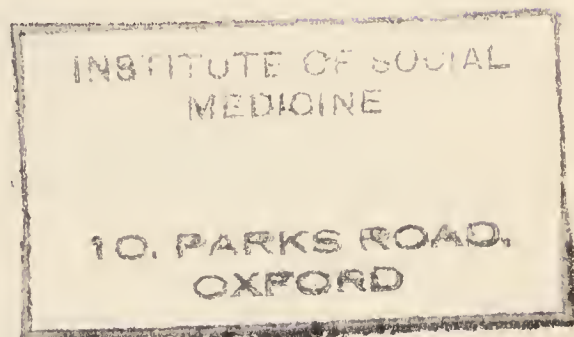
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NORFOLK COUNTY COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

COUNTY MEDICAL OFFICER

FOR

1945

T. RUDDOCK-WEST, M.D., D.P.H.
County Medical Officer

Public Health Officers of the County Council

WHOLE-TIME.

County Medical Officer :

T. RUDDOCK-WEST, M.D., B.S., D.P.H.

Deputy County Medical Officer :

W. R. CLAYTON HESLOP, M.D., F.R.C.S.E., D.P.H.

Clinical Tuberculosis Officers :

W. B. CHRISTOPHERSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

*H. B. HODSON, M.D., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.

D. MORRISON SMITH, M.B., CH.B., (Acting)

Assistant County Medical Officer and District Medical Officer of Health :

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H. (Acting until November)

L. G. ANDERSON, M.D., CH.B., D.P.H. (Returned from Active Service November)

Assistant Medical Officer and Medical Officer County Isolation Hospital :

*S. T. G. GRAY, M.B., CH.B., D.P.H.

A. J. O'CONNOR, B.A., M.D., B.CH., D.P.H. (Acting)

Assistant Medical Officers :

IRENE B. M. GREEN, M.D., B.S., D.P.H. (From November)

VIOLET M. JEWSON, M.A., M.B., CH.B. (Temporary)

C. MARGARET McLEOD, M.B., CH.B. (Temporary)

MARY V. ROSE, M.B., B.S. (Temporary)

Senior Dental Officer :

P. MILLICAN, L.D.S.

Assistant Dental Officers :

C. BAINES, L.D.S.

J. NIXON, L.D.S.

D. M. BRYANT, L.D.S. (Temporary)

E. C. PACKHAM, L.D.S. (Temporary)

A. J. CAIRNS, L.D.S.

C. R. WOLFENDALE, L.D.S. (Temporary)

SADIE S. HOW, L.D.S.

County Sanitary Inspector :

G. W. CURTIS, A.M.I.S.E., C.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspectors' Cert.

Assistant County Sanitary Inspector :

A. J. ALLISON, C.S.I.B., Meat and Food Inspectors' Cert.

Supervisor of Midwives and Superintendent Health Visitor :

MISS M. V. E. DAVEY, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.S.I. Cert.

Senior Assistant Supervisor :

MISS D. E. UNSWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert

Assistant Supervisors :

MISS R. E. HERMES, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Jan.—Mar.)

MISS M. THOMPSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (Mar.—May)

MISS N. FOLLENFANT, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V.Cert. (From June)

Health Visitors :

MISS D. PARKER, R.S.C.N., S.C.M.

also 139 District Nurse-Midwives (part-time)

Physiotherapists :

MRS. F. M. F. KEANE, C.S.P.

MISS F. W. THOMAS, C.S.P., O.N.C.

MRS. J. WOLF, C.S.P. (Mar.—Aug.)

*MISS M. H. WYER, C.S.P., O.N.C., M.A.O.T.

School Nurses and Child Life Protection Visitors :

MISS E. B. BYGRAVE, Trained Nurse.

MRS. P. D. CHADWICK, R.S.C.N.

MRS. B. A. CHRISTIE, S.R.N., S.C.M. (To Oct. 31st)

MISS A. E. HOLDEN, R.S.C.N.

MISS F. B. JUGGINS, S.R.N.

MRS. A. M. KNOTT, Trained Nurse, Sick Children

MRS. M. I. QUALE, S.R.N. (From Nov. 26th)

MISS C. SHINGLETON, S.R.N.

MISS D. VICKERS, S.R.N.

MRS. C. WAINWRIGHT, Trained Nurse, Sick Children

*On war service at end of year

Dental Attendants :

MRS. M. BAINES (part-time)

MISS B. ST. QUINTIN

MISS N. RADFORD

MRS. J. SCAMMELL

MRS. G. M. C. RICHES

Home Teachers and Visitors under the Blind Persons' Act :

MISS A. E. PINNINGTON, Cert. College of Teachers of the Blind.

MISS H. G. BELLAMY, Cert. College of Teachers of the Blind

Melton Lodge Orthopædic Home :

Matron : MISS A. L. M. HELLARD, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

Head Teacher : MISS C. M. TOWERS, Cert. Teacher (Resigned April)

MRS. P. M. LEGG, Cert. Teacher (From April)

County Isolation Hospital :

Matron : MISS M. D. PATERSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., R.F.N.

Chief Clerk :

C. J. HUBBARD

PART-TIME.

Orthopædic Surgeon :

H. A. BRITAIN, M.A., M.CH., F.R.C.S. (Returned from active service July)
G. K. McKEE, F.R.C.S. (Until July)

Consultants—Maternity Services :

M. W. BULMAN, M.D.(Obstet.), M.S., F.R.C.S., F.R.C.O.G.
J. O. HARRISON, M.B., F.R.C.S.
J. LEWIN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Ophthalmic Specialists :

A. GREENE, M.D., F.R.C.S.I.
G. MAXTED, M.D., F.R.C.S.
S. T. PARKER, M.B., CH.B., F.R.C.S.
W. E. RUTLEDGE, L.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.M.S.

Aural Specialists :

N. S. CARRUTHERS, F.R.C.S.E., D.L.O.
J. LEWIN, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S.

Medical Officers Venereal Diseases Clinics :

T. J. WRIGHT, F.R.C.S.E. (To Oct.) }
A. G. SMITH, M.D., F.R.C.S. (From Nov.) } Norwich
J. W. McINTOSH, M.B., CH.B., B.SC.(P.H.), F.R.C.S.E. King's Lynn

Pathologist :

G. P. C. CLARIDGE, M.B., B.S.

County Analyst :

W. LINCOLNE SUTTON, F.R.I.C.

Inspectors under Food and Drugs Acts :

W. B. BARRY
W. OLIVER
E. C. WESTWOOD

(These Officers are also Inspectors of Weights and Measures)

Medical Officers under the Poor Law Acts :

| | | |
|----------------------------------|--------|----|
| District Medical Officers | ... | 84 |
| Medical Officers of Institutions | ... | 11 |
| Public Vaccinators | | 80 |
| Vaccination Officers | | 24 |

Milk and Dairies Acts :

| | | |
|---------------------|--------|----|
| Vetinary Inspectors | | 20 |
|---------------------|--------|----|

Dental Surgeons :

Dental Officers under the Council's Schemes for Expectant and Nursing Mothers,
Tuberculosis, Blind Persons and Public Assistance 23

I regret the delay in the presentation of this report.

In the year under review the birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population was 18·38, a decrease of 1·68 on the previous year, but 2·28 above the birth rate for England and Wales.

Illegitimate births, which in 1943 had increased to the proportion of 1 in every 11 births and in 1944 to 1 in every 9 births, in 1945 represented 1 in every 7·3 births. Such statistics are a forcible reminder of the effects of war upon the life of the community. With the end of the war the gradual return to more normal home life should soon restore the balance.

The death rate for the year per 1000 estimated population was 12·48 as compared with 11·4 for England and Wales. The mortality rate in infants under 1 year of age per 1000 births, was 41·38 as compared with 36·00 the previous year and as against 46·00 for England and Wales. The maternal mortality rate per 1000 births was 1·30 as compared with 1·79 for the Country as a whole.

New cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis notified during the year show a slight decrease per 1000 of population, the Case rate being ·70 as compared with ·94 in 1944; the Case rate for Non-Pulmonary Cases being ·48 as against ·49 in the previous year.

The serious shortage of trained nursing staff experienced throughout the Country during the war, remains acute in this County. During 1945 this factor continued to restrict the number of admissions to the Emergency Maternity Home and the County Isolation Hospital. One wonders what would have happened in the event of an outbreak of infectious disease. It is to be hoped that the steps being taken to make the Nursing Profession more attractive will alleviate the position in the immediate post-war years.

I would like once again to record my appreciation and thanks to all members of the Staff for their loyal support and hard work during another difficult year. While carrying on the essential duties of the Department, a much depleted staff has continued the work of the Emergency Services in a most efficient manner.

1945 has seen the finish of the Evacuation Scheme and I would add my thanks to the Voluntary Services, the District Councils and the hard-worked Medical Practitioners throughout the County, the members of my Staff and to all who have co-operated in the work connected with the Government Evacuation Scheme in this County.

Looking ahead to a period of recovery from the cumulative effects of the war years it is hoped that essential schemes, shelved during the war, and new plans may go forward to provide a comprehensive health service and decent living conditions for all.

T. RUDDOCK-WEST.

Public Health Department,
29 Thorpe Road,
Norwich.

October, 1946.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Administrative County.

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----------------|
| AREA | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1,302,744 acres |
| POPULATION—CENSUS, 1931 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 318,903 |
| | Estimated by Registrar-General | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 324,750 |
| PRODUCT OF PENNY RATE for general purposes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £5,068 |
| RATEABLE VALUE for general purposes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | £1,264,312 |

BIRTHS AND DEATHS.

| | Total. | M. | F. |
|---|--------|------|------|
| Live Births— | | | |
| Legitimate | 5151 | 2685 | 2466 |
| Illegitimate | 818 | 442 | 376 |
| Birth rate per 1000 of the estimated population : | 18·38 | | |

| | | | |
|---|-----|----|-------|
| Stillbirths | 182 | 97 | 85 |
| Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births : | | | 29·45 |

| | | | |
|---|-------|------|------|
| Deaths | 4055 | 2045 | 2010 |
| Death rate per 1000 of the estimated population : | 12·48 | | |

| | Deaths. | Rate per 1000 total (live and still) births. |
|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Deaths from puerperal causes— | | |
| Puerperal sepsis | — | — |
| Other puerperal causes | 8 | 1·30 |
| Total | 8 | 1·30 |

Death rate of Infants under 1 year of age—

| | |
|---|-------|
| All infants per 1000 live births | 41·38 |
| Legitimate infants per 1000 legitimate live births | 37·85 |
| Illegitimate infants per 1000 illegitimate live births | 63·56 |

| | |
|---|-----|
| Deaths from Cancer (all ages) | 622 |
| Deaths from Measles (all ages) | 4 |
| Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years of age) | 16 |
| Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) | 12 |

The following table shows the number of live births registered and the birth rates during the past five years :—

| Year. | URBAN. | | RURAL. | | ADM. COUNTY. | | Rate for England & Wales. |
|----------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|
| | Net No. Regstd. | Rate. | Net No. Regstd. | Rate. | Net No. Regstd. | Rate. | |
| 1941 ... | 1070 | 15·83 | 4151 | 15·19 | 5221 | 15·32 | 14·2 |
| 1942 ... | 1130 | 17·42 | 4901 | 18·41 | 6031 | 18·25 | 15·8 |
| 1943 ... | 1114 | 17·43 | 4693 | 17·78 | 5807 | 17·70 | 16·5 |
| 1944 ... | 1363 | 21·28 | 5248 | 19·77 | 6611 | 20·06 | 17·6 |
| 1945 ... | 1137 | 18·01 | 4832 | 18·46 | 5969 | 18·38 | 16·1 |

The following table gives a comparison of the number of deaths and death rates during the past five years :—

| Year. | URBAN. | | RURAL. | | ADM. COUNTY. | | |
|----------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|---------------------------|
| | No. of Deaths. | Crude Death Rate. | No. of Deaths. | Crude Death Rate. | No. of Deaths. | Crude Death Rate. | Rate for England & Wales. |
| 1941 ... | 900 | 13·31 | 3418 | 12·51 | 4318 | 12·64 | 12·9 |
| 1942 ... | 927 | 14·29 | 3341 | 12·55 | 4268 | 12·89 | 11·6 |
| 1943 ... | 865 | 13·54 | 3277 | 12·41 | 4142 | 12·63 | 12·1 |
| 1944 ... | 865 | 13·50 | 3344 | 12·59 | 4209 | 12·77 | 11·6 |
| 1945 ... | 857 | 13·57 | 3198 | 12·22 | 4055 | 12·48 | 11·4 |

The maternal mortality rate per 1000 births was 1·30, compared with 1·79 for England and Wales.

The following table gives the causes of death in 1945 at specified ages :—
(Figures given by Registrar-General)

| CAUSES OF DEATH. | | | | | Total all Ages | 0- | 1- | 5- | 15- | 45- | 65- |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|----------------|-----|----|----|-----|-----|------|
| Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 | 1 | 1 | — | 3 | 1 | — |
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | 12 | 9 | 2 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 | — | 3 | 1 | 1 | — | — |
| Tuberculosis of the Respiratory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | 102 | — | — | — | 50 | 34 | 18 |
| Other Forms of Tuberculosis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 22 | 1 | 3 | 5 | 8 | 4 | 1 |
| Syphilitic Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 | 1 | 1 | — | — | 9 | 4 |
| Influenza | ... | ... | ... | ... | 11 | — | — | — | 1 | 2 | 8 |
| Measles | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — | 4 | — | — | — | — |
| Acute Polio-myelitis and Polio-encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 | — | — | — | 1 | — | — |
| Acute inf. encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 | — | 1 | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Cancer of Buc. Cav. and Œsoph. (M) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 83 | — | — | — | 3 | 26 | 54 |
| Uterus (F) | ... | ... | ... | ... | 107 | — | — | — | — | 34 | 73 |
| Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 | — | — | — | 5 | 24 | 30 |
| Cancer of Breast | ... | ... | ... | ... | 373 | — | 1 | 2 | 20 | 123 | 227 |
| Cancer of all other sites | ... | ... | ... | ... | 41 | — | — | — | 5 | 12 | 24 |
| Diabetes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 477 | — | — | 1 | 6 | 81 | 389 |
| Intra-cranial Vascular Lesions | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1119 | — | — | 2 | 15 | 156 | 946 |
| Heart Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | 169 | — | 1 | — | 2 | 11 | 155 |
| Other diseases of Circulatory System | ... | ... | ... | ... | 157 | 5 | — | 1 | 5 | 17 | 129 |
| Bronchitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 132 | 31 | 7 | 2 | 8 | 14 | 70 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 59 | 1 | 1 | — | 6 | 20 | 31 |
| Other Respiratory Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 36 | — | — | — | 7 | 13 | 16 |
| Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum | ... | ... | ... | ... | 16 | 15 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Diarrhœa under 2 years | ... | ... | ... | ... | 13 | — | — | 3 | 4 | 3 | 3 |
| Appendicitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 76 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 9 | 18 | 43 |
| Other Digestive Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | 92 | — | 1 | 3 | 9 | 26 | 53 |
| Nephritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| Puerperal and Post-abortive Sepsis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 8 | — | — | — | 8 | — | — |
| Other Maternal Causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 65 | 65 | — | — | — | — | — |
| Premature Birth | ... | ... | ... | ... | 106 | 93 | 5 | 4 | 3 | — | 1 |
| Con. mal., birth inj., infant dis. | ... | ... | ... | ... | 44 | — | — | 1 | 12 | 22 | 9 |
| Suicide | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 | — | 4 | 5 | 12 | 18 | 12 |
| Road Traffic Accidents | ... | ... | ... | ... | 104 | 14 | 6 | 13 | 15 | 16 | 40 |
| Other violent causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 485 | 9 | 7 | 6 | 44 | 73 | 346 |
| All other causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | — | — | — | — | — | — | — |
| All causes | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4055 | 247 | 50 | 54 | 264 | 758 | 2682 |

General Provision of Health Services in the Area.

LABORATORY.

The County Public Health Laboratory continued to provide bacteriological facilities for the general practitioners in the County until 28th February, 1945, when it was transferred to the Emergency Public Health Laboratory established by the Medical Research Council at the Norwich Isolation Hospital.

1152 specimens were examined during the period 1st January to 28th February, 1945.

5630 specimens were examined during the period 1st March to 31st December, 1945.

AMBULANCE FACILITIES, NURSING IN THE HOME, HOSPITALS, LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1929.

There has been no alteration in these Services.

HOSPITAL CAR SERVICE.

Following the closing down of the Voluntary Car Pool, the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the British Red Cross and the W.V.S. organised a Hospital Car Service which commenced in this County 1st August, 1945. This Car Service provides valuable assistance in connection with the attendance of patients at hospitals, clinics, etc.

Maternity and Child Welfare.

MIDWIFERY SERVICES.

As Local Supervising Authority for the whole of the administrative county, notifications were received by the County Council from 223 midwives of their intention to practise in the area.

MIDWIVES' ACT, 1936.

Full particulars of the Council's scheme and agreement with the Norfolk Nursing Federation appeared in the Report for 1937.

Section 6 of the Act has been applied to the area.

INSPECTION OF MIDWIVES.

348 routine inspection visits were paid during the year. Special visits to cases requiring supervision were also paid wherever necessary.

Under the rules of the Central Midwives Board midwives are required to summon medical help under certain specified emergencies, and to notify the Local Supervising Authority that they have done so. 560 notifications were received in respect of domiciliary cases, and 117 for patients in Institutions.

OPHTHALMIA NEONATORUM.

The cases notified are shewn in the following table :—

| Year. | Cases. | | | Vision un- impaired. | Vision im- paired. | Vision Lost. | Deaths. | Under treatment at end of year. |
|-------|-----------|----------|-----------------|-------------------------|-----------------------|-----------------|---------|--|
| | Notified. | Treated. | | | | | | |
| | | At home. | At Hospital. | | | | | |
| 1941 | 22 | 18 | 4 | 22 | — | — | — | — |
| 1942 | 16 | 15 | 1 | 16 | — | — | — | — |
| 1943 | 10 | 8 | 5 | 10 | — | — | — | — |
| 1944 | 13 | 11 | 2 | 13 | — | — | — | — |
| 1945 | 21 | 16 | 5 | 21 | — | — | — | — |

PUERPERAL PYREXIA.

60 notifications were received. In no case was it necessary to ask for a second opinion, 11 patients were removed to hospital, whilst 10 other cases were in hospital when notified.

INSTITUTIONAL PROVISION FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN.

In Public Assistance Institutions there were 23 beds provided for maternity cases. 169 patients were admitted to these beds.

54 patients were admitted to hospitals as anticipated cases of difficult and abnormal labour during the year, and in each case the County Council accepted responsibility for the maintenance charges, the patients being required to contribute in accordance with their means.

141 patients were admitted to the Emergency Maternity Home; of these, 50 were evacuees or expectant mothers transferred from other areas. There were 126 live births in the Home.

During the year, admission of 28 girls to voluntary Homes for unmarried mothers, and other Institutions, was authorised.

MATERNITY ACCOMMODATION.

A special Sub-Committee of the County Council has been appointed to consider the provision of additional maternity units in view of the urgent need for such accommodation in the immediate post-war years.

EXISTING ACCOMMODATION.

Public Assistance Institutions. Some 23 maternity beds are provided in 8 of the Council's institutions.

Wisbech Maternity Home. By arrangement with the Isle of Ely Authority, cases are admitted to this Maternity Home from the extreme west of the County.

Stow Vicarage Emergency Maternity Home. During the year under review, the Ministry of Health has relaxed the restriction on non-evacuee cases being admitted to this 20 bedded Emergency Maternity Home.

PROPOSED ADDITIONAL ACCOMMODATION.

Owing to the need of accommodation when the Ministry de-requisition Stow Vicarage, the County Council has negotiated for the acquisition of Stow Hall near Downham Market (West Norfolk) and Drayton Hall near Norwich (East Norfolk) for use as Maternity Homes. Co-operation with neighbouring Authorities is also being fully explored.

NURSING STAFFS.

The acute shortage of trained nursing staff has for some time prevented full use being made of even the existing inadequate number of maternity beds available and it seems likely that this difficulty will continue seriously to curtail any scheme for increasing maternity accommodation.

MATERNAL MORTALITY.

The causes of death due to pregnancy or childbirth are given by the Registrar-General as follows :—

| | | | |
|------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Puerperal Sepsis | ... | ... | — |
| Other Puerperal Causes | ... | ... | 8 |
| Total | ... | ... | 8 |

| Year. | Maternal Deaths. | | No. of Births. | | Rate per 1000 total Births. | | England and Wales. |
|-------|------------------|----|----------------|------|-----------------------------|------|--------------------|
| 1936 | ... | 27 | ... | 4802 | ... | 5.62 | 3.81 |
| 1937 | ... | 8 | ... | 4878 | ... | 1.58 | 3.11 |
| 1938 | ... | 10 | ... | 4861 | ... | 1.98 | 3.08 |
| 1939 | ... | 20 | ... | 4907 | ... | 4.01 | 2.82 |
| 1940 | ... | 9 | ... | 4992 | ... | 1.67 | 2.16 |
| 1941 | ... | 12 | ... | 5667 | ... | 2.12 | 2.23 |
| 1942 | ... | 7 | ... | 6238 | ... | 1.12 | 2.01 |
| 1943 | ... | 11 | ... | 5978 | ... | 1.84 | 2.29 |
| 1944 | ... | 13 | ... | 6611 | ... | 1.97 | 1.93 |
| 1945 | ... | 8 | ... | 6151 | ... | 1.30 | 1.79 |

The cases of women who died in, or immediately following, childbirth were investigated, and confidential reports sent to the Chief Medical Officer of the Ministry of Health.

I wish again to record my appreciation of the co-operation of the medical practitioners in reporting voluntarily all such cases, and enabling the desired confidential reports to be completed.

NOTIFICATION OF BIRTHS.

The County Council is Maternity and Child Welfare Authority for the whole of the Administrative County, with the exception of King's Lynn Borough.

5163 births (live and still) were notified in the County Maternity and Child Welfare Area.

HEALTH VISITING.

With the exception of a few areas, the County is covered by the District Nurse-Midwives as part-time Health Visitors, there being only one whole-time Visitor.

The following is a brief summary of the health visitors' work during the past five years :—

| Year. | Expectant Mothers. | | Infants under 1 year. | | Children 1—5 years. | Grand Total. |
|-------|--------------------|------------------|-----------------------|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| | First Visits. | Total Visits. | First Visits. | Total Visits. | | |
| 1941 | 4986 | 22023 | 4598 | 43451 | 64373 | 139431 |
| 1942 | 4735 | 19971 | 4477 | 36098 | 54216 | 110285 |
| 1943 | 4447 | 21116 | 4539 | 42916 | 56091 | 120123 |
| 1944 | 4683 | 22512 | 5007 | 43376 | 53823 | 119711 |
| 1945 | 4092 | 19552 | 4619 | 42411 | 54106 | 116069 |

MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE CENTRES.

30 Infant Welfare Centres are provided and maintained by the County Council. In addition there are 3 centres provided and maintained by Voluntary Associations aided by grants from the Council. Grants are also made to 2 centres outside the County in respect of attendances made by Norfolk mothers and children. 20 Weighing Centres are also provided.

ANTE- AND POST-NATAL WORK.

The Ante-Natal Scheme was described fully in the 1937 Report. During 1945, 984 expectant mothers were examined ante-natally.

The number of mothers who were referred and examined under the Post-Natal Scheme was 78. Two ante-natal and two post-natal clinics, maintained by Voluntary Associations, were attended by 59 and 136 mothers respectively.

WAR-TIME NURSERIES.

5 part-time Nurseries were provided by the Council under Circular 2383. These were situated at Aylsham, Costessey, Emneth, Wymondham and Thetford. The one at Costessey was, however, closed during the year under review.

ANCILLARY SERVICES.

FREE DOCTOR OR MIDWIFE.

When a case is unsuitable to be undertaken by a midwife and the patient is unable to engage a doctor privately, arrangements are made by the Council for medical attendance and, if necessary, hospital treatment.

HOME HELPS.

Under the scheme for the provision of financial assistance towards the cost of home helps employed at the time of confinement, assistance was provided in 67 cases during the year. The Council does not employ the home helps but in necessitous cases contributes varying proportions of their wages.

TONSILS AND ADENOIDS.

Arrangements are made for general practitioners on an approved panel to carry out tonsil and adenoid operations in cases referred by medical officers of the Infant Welfare Centres. Parents are required to contribute towards the cost in accordance with their means.

BIRTH CONTROL.

Arrangements continue for the facilities of the Norwich Mothers' Clinic for Constructive Birth Control and the Cambridge Women's Welfare Association to be available for County mothers, in cases where further pregnancies would, in the opinion of their medical attendant, prove detrimental to health.

PREVENTION OF BLINDNESS.

A scheme was instituted in 1933 for young children with defective vision to be examined by the part-time Ophthalmic Specialists. 24 children were examined during 1945.

CENTRAL COUNCIL FOR HEALTH EDUCATION.

The County Council has authorised an annual grant of 10/- per 1000 of population to the Central Council for Health Education and the services available are utilised whenever possible.

MILK SCHEME FOR NECESSITOUS EXPECTANT OR NURSING MOTHERS AND YOUNG CHILDREN.

The administration of this scheme throughout the area is carried out by the County Council. All applications are considered by one Committee. A scale of income has been adopted as a guiding factor, but each case is dealt with on its merits, and once the medical need is established, grants are made to many cases which would not otherwise have been eligible.

No liquid milk was supplied, but 28,284 lbs. of dried milk were issued; this is a decrease of 2891 lbs. on the previous year, due partly to the return home of evacuees previously billeted in this County and the increased use of National Dried Milk.

UNMARRIED MOTHERS AND ILLEGITIMATE CHILDREN.

Grants are made to the various Moral Welfare Associations covering the area and during the period under review some 489 cases were dealt with by the Workers concerned.

The County Council has, by agreement with the Norwich Diocesan Council for Moral Welfare, assisted in connection with the establishment of a Hostel for the accommodation and welfare of unmarried mothers, or married girls deserted by or separated from their husbands, by accepting one half of the cost of adaptation and furnishing of the premises and of the Standing Charges with maintenance expenses based on patient-days. The Hostel, situated in premises known as "The Cliff," St. Leonards Road, Norwich,

has accommodation for twelve mothers and infants and normally the girls are in the Home for two months prior to confinement and two months after return from the Maternity Home or Hospital. Cliff Hostel actually opened during the latter half of 1944, 11 cases being dealt with in that year and 20 in 1945.

In addition during the year 1945 financial help has been given to 9 girls who have been sent to Rescue Homes or Mother and Baby Homes in various parts of the Country.

Many of the girls applying for help were temporary residents in the County, being members of one or other of the War Services.

DENTAL SCHEME FOR NECESSITOUS EXPECTANT AND NURSING MOTHERS.

This scheme which was inaugurated in 1926, continues to be a great help to mothers. Treatment is given by a panel of qualified dental surgeons, similar fees being paid to those in force in respect of National Health Insurance patients.

DENTAL TREATMENT—M. & C. W.

| No. of cases authorised financial assistance towards treatment | No. of cases in which treatment was completed during the year | | | |
|--|---|----------|--------------------|----------|
| | 1945 authorisation | | 1944 authorisation | |
| | Extractions, etc. | Dentures | Extractions, etc. | Dentures |
| 173 | 132 | 68 | 34 | 58 |

CHILD LIFE PROTECTION.

The administration of Sections 206-220 of the Public Health Act, 1936, remains as outlined in previous reports, with the exception that all the routine visiting is done by the 11 School Nurses, with supervisory visits by members of the medical staff and the staff of the Superintendent Health Visitor.

One child was removed to a "place of safety" when it was found necessary to resort to legal proceedings under Sections 207(1), 207(3) and 206(1)(b), the offender being bound over under the Probation of Offenders Act.

The following figures indicate the position at the beginning and end of the year 1945 :—

1. Foster Parents.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| No. on Register on 1st January, 1945 | ... | ... | 270 |
| No. on Register on 31st December, 1945 | ... | ... | 174 |

2. Nurse Children.

| | | | |
|---|-----|-----|-----|
| No. on Register on 1st January, 1945 | ... | ... | 396 |
| No. removed from Register during the year | ... | ... | 273 |
| No. of New Registrations | ... | ... | 67 |
| No. on Register on 31st December, 1945 | ... | ... | 190 |

In no case were foster mothers guaranteed payment by the Welfare Authority.

3. Visits made by Inspectors during year.

No. of Primary Reports :—

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| (a) Homes | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 50 |
| (b) Nurse Children | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 67 |
| No. of Further Reports on Nurse Children | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 361 |

ADOPTION OF CHILDREN (REGULATION) ACT, 1939.

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|
| No. of persons who gave notice under Section 7 (3) during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 30 |
| Total No. of children "adopted" during the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 21 |
| No. of such children under supervision at end of the year | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

MATERNITY AND NURSING HOMES.

The following table gives particulars of the action which has been taken under Sections 187-199 of the Public Health Act, 1936, during the year ended 31st December, 1945 :—

| | | | | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of applications for registration | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| No. of applications refused | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| No. of registrations cancelled | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | — |
| Total No. of Homes registered at 31st December, 1945 | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 27 |
| No. of beds provided :— | | | | | | |
| Maternity | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 54 |
| Others | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 143 |

No applications have been received under Section 194 of the Act for delegation of powers.

Four of these Homes have been closed temporarily owing to war conditions, but registration has not been cancelled.

Orthopædic Treatment Scheme.

This Scheme has continued along the lines set out in previous Reports.

Co-operation with the authorities of the Norfolk & Norwich and Jenny Lind Hospitals has been well maintained, but war conditions have not allowed for the early admission of patients and the waiting lists still continue to increase.

1. ASCERTAINMENT.

856 new cases were added to the register during the year, consisting of 603 Education, 192 Maternity and Child Welfare, 26 Tuberculosis and 35 Public Assistance cases.

2. CLINICS HELD BY THE ORTHOPÆDIC SURGEON.

46 clinics were held, 34 at Norwich and 12 at King's Lynn, 1297 patients were examined, 334 of these being new cases. 618 were Education cases and 329, 165 and 127 were Maternity and Child Welfare, Tuberculosis and Public Assistance cases respectively. 58 King's Lynn patients were also examined.

3. HOSPITAL TREATMENT.

116 individual cases received in-patient treatment during the year. The patients were in hospital for a total of 6543 days, giving an approximate average of 18 beds occupied daily.

4. SERVICES OF PHYSIOTHERAPISTS.

Two Physiotherapists were employed at the beginning of the year and a third took up duty in March. She resigned in August and the vacancy had not been filled by the end of the year. 6310 treatments were given or examinations made.

5. CASES ON THE REGISTER.

At the end of the year there were 2730 cases on the current register as follows :—

| | |
|------------------------------------|-------|
| Education | 1892 |
| Maternity and Child Welfare | 419 |
| Tuberculosis | 165 |
| Public Assistance | 254 |
| | <hr/> |
| | 2730 |
| | <hr/> |

6. CASES DISCONTINUED.

708 patients have been discharged from the scheme during the year as follows :—

| | E. | M. & C.W. | T.B. | P.A. |
|---|-------|--------------|-------|-------|
| Cured | 51 | 14 | 1 | 7 |
| Much improved, no further treatment required | 128 | 20 | 2 | 12 |
| Left school, no further treatment required | 84 | — | — | — |
| Treatment would not benefit | 5 | — | 1 | 4 |
| Treatment not necessary | 52 | 15 | 4 | 17 |
| Removed from County | 148 | 43 | 8 | 8 |
| Treatment refused | 24 | 8 | — | 7 |
| Died | 2 | 2 | 5 | 1 |
| Untraceable | 13 | 9 | 2 | 2 |
| Private treatment | 6 | 3 | — | — |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 513 | 114 | 23 | 58 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> | <hr/> |

7. MELTON LODGE.

This Institution returned to Great Yarmouth during the latter half of the year but owing to the restricted accommodation due to the fact that the handyman has had to occupy part of the premises whilst waiting for a house, it has not been possible to open all the wards. There has been, however, a total number of 10,239 in-patient days, giving a daily average of 28 beds occupied throughout the year. Of this average 22 beds were occupied by Norfolk patients.

8. ARRANGEMENTS WITH KING'S LYNN AUTHORITY.

The County Council has an arrangement with the King's Lynn Borough Council for the treatment through the County Council's Scheme of patients for whom the Borough Council is the responsible Authority. On 1st April, 1945, the County Council became the Local Education Authority for King's Lynn and the treatment of Education cases then became our responsibility. At the end of the year, there were on the King's Lynn register, 23 children under 5 years of age and not in attendance at school.

Prevalence of and Control over Infectious and other Diseases.

The County Isolation Hospital serves the whole of the administrative county except King's Lynn M.B., Cromer, Sheringham and North Walsham Urban Districts and Erpingham and Marshland Rural Districts. Its normal accommodation is 60 patients.

Admission of patients is arranged through the Public Health Department, and is restricted to cases where :—

(a) The home conditions are such that it is impossible to isolate the patient.

(b) The patient's condition is such that skilled nursing is essential.

Admissions to the Hospital include Service cases and evacuees.

| | | | |
|--|-----|-----|-----|
| No. of patients in Hospital on 1st January, 1945 | ... | ... | 30 |
| No. of patients admitted | ... | ... | 379 |
| No. of patients who died in Hospital | ... | ... | 9 |

On 1st January, 1946, there were 22 patients in the Hospital.

Patients admitted were suffering from the following diseases :—

| | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Scarlet Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 125 |
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 51 |
| Whooping Cough | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Cerebro-Spinal Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 7 |
| Dysentery | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |
| Measles and Rubella | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 25 |
| Chickenpox | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Glandular Fever | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Streptococcal Infections | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 15 |
| Paratyphoid | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Measles-Encephalo-Myelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Erysipelas | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Mumps | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Tonsillitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Pneumonia and Bronchopneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 3 |
| Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 4 |
| Infective Jaundice | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Myocarditis | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Nursing Mothers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Babies with Mothers | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 6 |
| Skin Diseases | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 24 |
| Miscellaneous | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 43 |
| Births in Hospital | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| No obvious disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 5 |
| Venereal Disease | ... | ... | ... | ... | ... | 9 |

379

DEATHS.

The deaths were due to :—

| | | | | | |
|-------------------|-----|-----|-----|-----|---|
| Diphtheria | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Encephalitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 2 |
| Pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Broncho-pneumonia | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Myocarditis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Enteritis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| Tonsillitis | ... | ... | ... | ... | 1 |
| | | | | | — |
| | | | | | 9 |
| | | | | | — |

Shortage of trained nursing staff and domestic staff continued in 1945 and only two ward blocks out of a possible five could be staffed for the admission of patients. From August, 1945, only one ward block has been staffed.

Extracts from the Report of the Medical Officer in charge of the Isolation Hospital :—

Diphtheria. Of the 51 cases admitted, two-thirds were of the gravis type and of the remaining one-third, intermedius and mitis types occurred in approximately equal proportions. There were two fatal cases—one patient had a tuberculous spine which was the primary cause of death, whilst the other patient was a severe case of gravis diphtheria who died of complications after 30 days in hospital. He had not been immunised.

11 of the 51 cases had been immunised and of these one only had a severe attack, the remainder having either mild attacks only with no complications or no clinical symptoms at all, being admitted on account of positive swabs for nose or throat.

Three of the cases had cutaneous lesions from which diphtheria bacilli were isolated.

Scarlet Fever. With the exception of 9 cases which developed complications, the disease presented was mild to moderate in character. The complications which occurred were five cases of acute suppurative otitis media, three cases of mastoiditis, which were operated upon, and one case of suppurative glands.

Cerebro-Spinal Fever. Seven cases were admitted during the year, all except two being Service cases (four males and one A.T.S.). All seven made satisfactory recoveries after treatment with sulphathiazole, the average stay in hospital being 17 days.

Enteric Fever. Of three cases of paratyphoid fever, two were brothers aged 3 years and 11 months respectively, whilst the third case was a man of 56 years. All three recovered and were discharged home.

Penicillin. Penicillin became available in small quantities in the second half of the year and was exhibited in seven selected cases. All seven patients showed improvement following the administration of the drug and there were no deaths in this very small series.

COUNTY SMALLPOX HOSPITAL.

No patients were admitted.

The following table gives particulars of notifications of infectious disease received for the whole of the Administrative County and the number of deaths from certain of the diseases :—

| Disease. | No. of cases notified. | Deaths as given by Registrar-General. |
|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| Diphtheria | 48 | 5 |
| Scarlet Fever | 416 | 1 |
| Erysipelas | 99 | Not given. |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | 65 | Not given |
| Measles | 2831 | 4 |
| Whooping Cough | 826 | 12 |
| Chickenpox | 48 | Not given |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 19* | Not given |
| Dysentery | 54 | Not given |
| Typhoid Fever | — | — |
| Paratyphoid Fever | 6 | — |
| Pneumonia | 225 | 132 |
| Tuberculosis (Pulmonary) | 246 | 102 |
| Tuberculosis (Non-Pulmonary) | 159 | 22 |
| Cerebro-spinal Fever | 17 | 6 |
| Polioencephalitis | 2 | 1 |
| Poliomyelitis | 5 | |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | — | — |
| Infective Jaundice | 250 | Not given |
| Malaria | 19 | Not given |
| Smallpox | — | Not given |
| Enteric Fever | 1 | Not given |
| Total | 5336 | 285 |

*Includes cases notified outside the M. & C.W. Area.

CANCER.

The death rates per 1000 population during the last seven years have been :—

| | | | | | | |
|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1939 | 1940 | 1941 | 1942 | 1943 | 1944 | 1945 |
| 2·01 | 1·79 | 1·92 | 1·97 | 1·91 | 1·92 | 1·91 |

The age distribution of the deaths registered in 1945 was as follows :—

| | 0-1 | 1-5 | 5-15 | 15-45 | 45-65 | 65- | Total |
|-------------|-----|-----|------|-------|-------|-----|-------|
| Males ... | 0 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 102 | 193 | 310 |
| Females ... | 0 | 0 | 1 | 15 | 105 | 191 | 312 |
| Total ... | 0 | 1 | 2 | 28 | 207 | 384 | 622 |

The facilities for treatment remain as set out in the Report for 1938.

VENEREAL DISEASES.

Under the Public Health (V.D.) Regulations of 1916, treatment centres are established at the Norfolk and Norwich Hospital and the West Norfolk and Lynn Hospital.

380 new patients (excluding Service cases) from the administrative county attended during the year, as follows :—

| Clinic. | Syphilis. | Gonorrhœa. | Non-V.D. and undiagnosed conditions. | Total. |
|-----------------|-----------|------------|--------------------------------------|--------|
| Norwich ... | 30 | 35 | 174 | 239 |
| King's Lynn ... | 22 | 33 | 86 | 141 |
| Total ... | 52 | 68 | 260 | 380 |

The following table shows the total attendances made by Norfolk patients at each clinic during the past five years :—

| Year. | Norwich. | King's Lynn. |
|----------|----------|--------------|
| 1941 ... | 8377 | 2158 |
| 1942 ... | 9132 | 1900 |
| 1943 ... | 5901 | 2292 |
| 1944 ... | 3895 | 2209 |
| 1945 ... | 2381 | 2274 |

In-patient Treatment.

| | Norwich. | K. Lynn. |
|---|----------|----------|
| (a) Total number of persons admitted ... | 5 | 5 |
| (b) Aggregate number of "in-patient days" ... | 19 | 144 |

Defence Regulations—Regulation 33b.

The number of contacts notified under Defence Regulation 33b was 54, including 3 for whom two or more Forms I were received.

Of those for whom Form I was received, 21 were found. 8 of these had submitted to examination voluntarily, and 2 were examined after persuasion.

Of those for whom two or more Forms I were received, 3 were found and examined after persuasion.

Difficulty has been experienced in many instances due to incorrectness and vagueness of names and addresses given. In this connection valuable assistance has been afforded by the Chief Constable and his staff in identifying the person in question.

TUBERCULOSIS.

No change has been made in the scheme of treatment. Two Tuberculosis Officers cover the County and normally each has the help of a Nurse. Unfortunately it has been impossible to fill a vacancy which occurred in May, 1943.

Incidence—Comparative Statement.

The number of new cases reported by formal notification or otherwise, and the case-rates per 1000 of the population, during the past 5 years, are as follows :—

| Year. | Number of Pulmonary cases. | | Case- rate. | Number of Non-pulmonary cases. | | Case- rate. |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------------------------|-----|----------------|
| 1941 | ... | 244 | ... | ... | 194 | ... |
| 1942 | ... | 212 | ... | ... | 159 | ... |
| 1943 | ... | 209 | ... | ... | 152 | ... |
| 1944 | ... | 312 | ... | ... | 162 | ... |
| 1945 | ... | 246 | ... | ... | 159 | ... |

The mortality figures for the same 5 years are as follows :—

| Year. | Number of Pulmonary cases. | | Case- rate. | Number of Non-pulmonary cases. | | Case- rate. |
|-------|----------------------------------|-----|----------------|--------------------------------------|----|----------------|
| 1941 | ... | 115 | ... | ... | 34 | ... |
| 1942 | ... | 115 | ... | ... | 27 | ... |
| 1943 | ... | 103 | ... | ... | 29 | ... |
| 1944 | ... | 120 | ... | ... | 31 | ... |
| 1945 | ... | 102 | ... | ... | 22 | ... |

Examinations and Dispensary Records.

During the year, 1154 new cases (including 309 contacts) were examined. Of these 269 were diagnosed as definitely tuberculous, while 286 cases were regarded as sufficiently suspicious to justify their being kept under observation.

2050 patients (872 pulmonary, 576 non-pulmonary, and 602 doubtful) were on the Dispensary Register on 31st December, 1945.

In the year under review, 671 cases were written off, 167 as recovered, 238 as non-tuberculous, 90 dead and 176 removed from the County or otherwise lost sight of.

1681 X-ray photographs were taken during the year.

102 patients received 987 artificial pneumothorax refills.

Residential Treatment.

402 patients were treated in sanatoria or hospitals during 1945 of whom 272 were discharged and 15 died, leaving 115 in-patients on 31st December, 1945.

Sanitary Circumstances.

1. HOUSING.

Following the Hobhouse Report regarding Rural Housing, a Joint County Housing Advisory Committee was established for Norfolk on which the County Council is represented. The Sanitary Inspectors in the County formed a technical Sub-Committee to assist the Advisory Committee, and during the year two reports were presented. The first dealt with standards for existing houses and proposed methods of dealing with the survey. The

Advisory Committee adopted the standard with minor amendments (this is to be published) and accepted the proposal that a common form of record card should be used by all officers carrying out the work. The Committee arranged for central printing of the card as drafted by the Sanitary Inspectors.

The Sanitary Inspectors' second report was prepared in conjunction with the Women's Institute, the W.V.S., and the Women's Housing Advisory Council. This attempted to assess the actual demand in the County for additional houses, *not taking into account those families living in houses regarded as unfit for human habitation*. The information collected gave the following results in respect of approximately 65% of the rural population of the County :—

| | | |
|---------|--|------|
| (1) (a) | Number of "couples" married during the war <i>now living with other families</i> and who will require a house <i>in Norfolk</i> after the war | 1829 |
| (b) | Number of people included in the above figure who have already made application for a Council House ... | 446 |
| (2) (a) | Number of families living with others who will require a house <i>in Norfolk</i> after the war, excluding those in Question (1), and excluding Evacuees | 581 |
| (b) | Number of people included in the above figure who have already made application for a Council House ... | 245 |
| (3) | Number of "couples" intending to marry immediately after the war, and who will require a house <i>in Norfolk</i> | 565 |
| (4) | Number of Evacuee families likely to stay in Norfolk after the war | 143 |

The importance of the proposed survey of existing houses as recommended in the Hobhouse Report, is apt to be overlooked in view of the urgent demand for additional accommodation. In the past there has been far too much scattered building of Council Houses with no long term policy, and in too few cases have building sites capable of dealing with future extension been acquired. With the coming into operation of the Rural Water Supplies Act, the point assumes considerable importance. The cost of water and sewerage schemes in rural areas is likely to be prohibitive unless long lengths of "unproductive" mains are avoided, and this presumes the grouping of houses. It is vitally important that a long term view should be taken and housing, water and sewerage should be planned *together*. In the absence of the housing survey envisaged there is no proper means of doing this, for only in this way can District Councils ascertain what their total housing commitments are likely to be. The Sanitary Inspectors have been overloaded during the war years with emergency duties and many of these continue at the time of writing this report. The general shortage of qualified Inspectors prevents the appointment by each District Council of Assistants for the purpose (without robbing other districts) and moreover, if they are appointed in this way, they might be absorbed in other work. This will inevitably delay the completion of the Survey. It was suggested that the best course would have been to appoint a small County pool of suitably qualified people to concentrate on this work, and I regret that the Advisory Committee did not agree with this suggestion.

2. PIPED WATER SUPPLIES.

A great deal of time was spent in connection with post-war schemes for piped water and sewerage. This involved many inspections, consultations and attendances at District Council and other meetings. The system of consultation and co-operation between the County Sanitary Inspector and the Consulting Engineers referred to in the last Annual Report, functioned very satisfactorily. The policy adopted was to prepare preliminary reports on each district in the first place, and then to consider these in relation to the draft proposals for adjoining districts. The first stage of individual preliminary reports was almost complete by the end of the year, and it remained to adjust and modify these in order to weld them into a whole. Once the general proposals for the whole County can be settled, it is anticipated that the work can be split up into stages in such a way that each stage when carried out, will be part of the ultimate whole. It is hoped that in the Report for 1946, it will be possible to give more details of the various schemes, but by the end of 1945 three points had already become obvious, viz :—

- (a) Piped water supply is likely to be an *extremely* expensive matter in such a highly rural area as Norfolk. It became clear that although engineering policy alone may dictate large schemes covering wide areas, it would be much cheaper for many years to come to rely very largely upon local development, although providing for links between the various distribution systems wherever practicable.
- (b) Underground water in relatively small quantities is generally accessible in Norfolk, and the choice between few larger schemes and more smaller ones becomes more apparent. The problem of supplies to outlying agricultural holdings will need special consideration. Much depends upon the availability and cost of electricity to permit of automatic operation plant and to cut down maintenance costs in small works.
- (c) Much more detailed investigation of the estimates of consumption of water in Norfolk is necessary. This, of course, affects the whole design of the schemes and an inflated figure of consumption will add very materially to the cost. On the other hand it is essential that schemes should be properly planned with a view to the likely future development of the area.

At the time of writing this report these three problems had been fully investigated.

3. SEWAGE AND RIVER POLLUTION.

A number of complaints of river pollution were investigated and dealt with. By the end of the year a start was made on the preliminary investigations regarding the need for new sewerage schemes in the County following the 1944 Act. Doubtless this will be necessary in many areas, but I do not subscribe to the view that main sewerage must necessarily follow piped water in the more rural parishes. At the time of going to print the extent of the problem in the County is more apparent and will be dealt with fully in the 1946 Report.

4. SHELLFISHERIES IN THE WASH AREA.

Complaints from other Authorities regarding unsatisfactory condition of shellfish obtained from the Wash area received considerable attention. The County Council, District Councils and the Eastern Sea Fisheries Board considered the possibility of providing cleansing tanks in an endeavour to preserve this industry. The County Council agrees to contribute one half of the cost (not exceeding £250) towards the cost of the preliminary investigations for this purpose.

5. MILK AND DAIRIES.

On 31st December, 1945, 193 producers held T.T. licences and 448 "Accredited" licences. During the year, 560 samples were taken from the T.T. producers, of which 40 failed to pass the Methylene Blue test; of the 1090 samples taken from the "Accredited" producers, 280 failed.

1236 samples of milk were submitted for biological examination. In 246 cases, the examination could not be completed through the premature death of the guinea pig, or otherwise. In the 990 complete examinations, 10 samples were found to contain tubercle bacilli.

572 visits have been made to Tuberculin Tested and Accredited premises, prospective designated milk producers, and in connection with cases brought before the Committee.

Following a check on supplies of T.T. milk to the Milk Marketing Board, churn rinsings from one producer demonstrated the presence of staphylococcus aureus. Investigations led to the removal of one milker from the cowsheds and dairy.

In another case investigation of T.B. infection amongst calves in a T.T. herd was traced to human origin. Arrangements have been made for the person concerned to have institutional treatment.

At the end of the year, 401 schools (431 Departments) were participating in the Milk in Schools Scheme. 23 visits were made to premises concerning new supplies. 33 visits were made to discuss informally with existing T.T. producers tentative arrangements for the supply of T.T. milk in schools.

6. GENERAL.

17,894 articles were disinfected at the County Isolation Hospital.

Blind Persons Acts, 1920 and 1938.

These Acts are administered by the County Council through the Public Health and Assistance Committee.

REGISTRATION.

During the year ended 31st March, 1946, 118 new cases were examined, 100 of whom were certified to be blind within the meaning of the Act. Of these, 71 were over 70, 8 between 60 and 70, 10 between 50 and 60, whilst the remaining 11 were under 50 years of age.

The total number of blind persons on the register was 700, compared with 659 the previous year.

The Prevention Register is kept of those persons who have been examined and certified to be at present NOT blind within the meaning of the Act, but who have eye defects from which there is a possibility of their becoming blind at some future date. A Supplementary Register of those de-certified is also kept for follow-up purposes.

All persons able to travel are examined by ophthalmic specialists at Norwich or King's Lynn, and the Form of Report and Certificate issued by the Ministry of Health is completed in each case. Persons unable to travel through ill health are examined at their homes by members of the Council's whole-time Medical Staff.

TRAINING.

8 children are being educated at the East Anglian School for the Blind under the Education Committee's scheme.

HOME WORKERS.

There are now 6 Home Workers in the County.

EMPLOYMENT.

In addition to 17 Workshop Employees at the Norwich Blind Institution and the Home Workers, 18 persons are able to support themselves from their earnings in various occupations. The unemployable blind number 638.

HOME TEACHING AND VISITING.

The whole-time Home Teachers possess the certificate of the College of Teachers for the Blind. In order to be in personal touch with the blind persons, I occasionally accompany the Home Teachers for a day's visits.

4817 visits were made during the year, in comparison with 4286 last year.

Miss A. E. Pinnington, Senior Home Teacher of the Blind, resigned at the end of 1945, and the vacancy was filled by the appointment of Miss K. M. Holliday. Miss Pinnington entered the service of the County Council on the 7th August, 1924.

WELFARE.

The 5 invalid chairs loaned by the Council have been in continual use throughout the year, and one further chair was presented to the Council by Mrs. Grimble, of Cringleford.

In cases recommended by the Home Visitors, assistance has been given for the purchase of clothing, dental treatment, medical requisites, etc.

The Norwich Institution for the Blind make grants to recommended cases from charitable funds to cover such things as outings, holidays and other extra comforts not normally provided.

MAINTENANCE GRANTS.

The financial circumstances of all the unemployables is carefully enquired into and, where necessary, their income is augmented. 437 persons (including 2 evacuees) were receiving allowances at the end of March, 1946. The total amount of these grants during the year exceeded £18,000.

Emergency Services.

HOSPITALS.

Throughout the year I have continued to act as the Regional Hospital Officer's Agent in the Administrative County.

CASUALTY BUREAU.

In agreement with neighbouring Authorities, a casualty bureau for the geographical county has been established at this office since 1939, with the Chief Clerk as the Officer in Charge.

CIVIL NURSING RESERVE.

This Department is the headquarters of the Civil Nursing Reserve for the Administrative County.

GOVERNMENT EVACUATION SCHEME.

In April the Ministry of Health informed local authorities that plans should be made for the organised return of evacuees who had homes to which they could go, the plans to be put into operation when the Government made a decision to that effect. The idea was that the evacuees should return home in organised parties travelling by special trains or in specially reserved accommodation on ordinary trains. Authorities in reception areas were asked to arrange for the medical examination of children a day or two before the date of travel to ensure that they were fit and, after consultation with the District Councils concerned, certain centres were decided upon where the children would be collected for this purpose.

It was not until the middle of June that official travelling arrangements were made by the Ministry of Health and by that time a large proportion of the evacuees had already returned to their homes. Some 350 children who returned in organised parties were medically examined by the County Council's staff. At the end of June, however, the Ministry of Health decided that the numbers did not justify special travelling arrangements and the reception authorities were allowed to issue individual travel warrants. In these circumstances no further medical examinations were called for.

